

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 25, ~~wherein the resolving step includes~~ the further comprising the step steps of selecting and dispatching appropriate help information to ~~the~~ a user.

3-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~13~~ 25, further comprising the step of directing the error events to resources capable of assisting in resolving the error ~~event~~.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 25, further comprising the steps of:
receiving a help query from one of the plurality of system elements;
providing help information in response to the help query; and
dynamically updating the help information.

c/ 17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 25, wherein the providing step further comprises the step of dispatching help information to the system element associated with the error, where the dispatching step is performed substantially immediately after the receiving step.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of dynamically updating the help information.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of investigating the error by soliciting additional information about the occurrence of the error from the system element associated with the error.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 25, further comprising the step of determining a preferred assistance option based on previous assistance options provided in response to an error; and wherein the selecting step includes selecting the preferred assistance option.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 25, wherein the error-resource comprises a database containing information regarding resolution of errors and bypassing of errors.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~15~~ 25, further comprising the step of determining the priority of the error relative to any outstanding errors.

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23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 25, further comprising the step of generating an information-package in response to the receiving step; wherein the information-package comprises an error-identification, and at least one of a system identification, an application identification, a time stamp, a location, a priority, and an internal state.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 25, further comprising the step of propagating an error alert to one or more components of the computer system that may be affected by the occurrence of the error.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 15, wherein the receiving step further comprises the steps of:-~~ A method for processing an error occurring in a system element operating in a computer system having a central-resource, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving an error message at the central-resource from the system element indicating the occurrence of an error associated with the system element;

determining whether a connection exists between the system element and the central-resource;

transmitting the error message from the system element to the central resource when the connection exists; and

when the connection does not exist, queuing the error message for later transmission to the central resource;

referencing an error-resource having a plurality of assistance options;

C1 selecting an assistance option from the plurality of assistance options in accordance
with the error message; and
providing the assistance option to the system.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 25, ~~wherein the resolving step~~
~~includes the further~~ comprising the step of locating an alternative resource to substitute for a failed
resource associated with the error.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 25, wherein the assistance includes
help information, the method further comprising the step of dynamically updating the help
information.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26 25, further comprising the step of
investigating the error by soliciting additional information about the occurrence of the error from
the system element associated with the error.

31. (Cancelled)

dispatching at least one response to the system element processing the error related to the response.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the filtering step further comprises determining the errors that require assistance of a system element.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the filtering step further comprises determining the errors that require assistance of an external element.

46. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the filtering step further comprises determining the errors that require a physical change to the distributed computer system.

47. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the filtering step further comprises determining the errors that require user intervention.

48. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the filtering step further comprises determining the errors that are resolved automatically.

49. (New) A method for tracking and resolving errors, comprising the steps of:
receiving, at a central resource, at least two error messages, related to at least two errors occurring on least one of a plurality of system elements;

prioritizing the error messages based on the priority level;

generating, by the central resource, an error pack based on the error message,
containing at least one assistance option and in order of the priority level; and

transmitting the error pack to the system element that generated the error message.